



Village of Biscayne Park

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Agenda Item

Village Commission Meeting Date: May 3, 2016

Subject: Solar Light Poles Redux: Resident Request, Inquiry and Discussion.

Prepared by: Commissioner Barbara Watts

Sponsored by: Commission

Background Analysis:

Earlier this week, I was approached by my neighbor, David Tunnell, about the solar light poles behind three of the Village's new entrance signs. Before I could say a word, he gave me his assessment, which was a very critical—focusing on the flaws in the lighting design and its negative effect on the signs that the lighting was intended to enhance. He recommended that the poles be taken out and the issues of lighting readdressed. I told him that we were in agreement, and that his assessment, basically, concurred with that of the Parks and Parkways Advisory Board. I told him that others on the Commission also found these poles to diminish the appearance/presentation of the signs but that the consensus at the last Commission meeting had been that there was nothing to be done but to accept them. Painting the poles brown had partially mitigated the problem and that, the poles had been (bought, paid for, and installed, and, as well, the design firm, Savino-Miller. the design fi), there was nothing to be done except to accept them. I did not go into details of the with David,

When unpacking the car a short while ago, my neighbor, David Tunnell, was driving by and stopped to inquire about the solar light poles behind the new entrance signs. I won't attempt to paraphrase or quote his comments--but his words were colorful and his comments blistering. This was before I could get a word out.

I told him that the Commission (against my wishes and those of the members of the Parks and Parkways Board) had decided that nothing could be done, esp. as the cost of poles and installation was about \$2,000 per pole and that, really, we had no money that we could spend on rectifying the unacceptable situation.

In turn, David asked me to inquire how much it would cost to take out the poles and that he might pay for the cost--as he found them so stupid and (aesthetically/visually) offensive. Thus, I request that the Administration consider exploring that would be entailed in the poles' removal and, as well, the cost of other solar generated solutions and the cost of other lighting solutions (electric, batteries, whatever).

If we could find/raise funds for solar panels on the Rec. Center's roof (as per conversation I

recently had w/ Linda Dillon and another resident or two) we might be able to generate moneys that would cover the cost of lighting the signs with electricity (if lower solar poles or a different arrangement pf them would not work).

Would it be possible for the Administration to look into costs and other solutions, be it with Savino-Miller and/or other firms? Would it be possible to recoup the money spent on these gently-used poles by returning them to the vendor? Are they all now properly functioning? If not, is there a clause in the purchase contract that might enable the Village to return them and receive a refund? Have we paid for poles for all for the additional signs and do they still remain in boxes? If so, might we return them and have the Village's expenditures refunded?

David Tunnell's offer is most generous and it comes from an acute "judgement of the eye" ("giudizio dell' occhio" my assessment). These poles intrude upon whatever charm these signs might have had. If he is willing to help the Village finance the cost of removing these ill-conceived poles, his offer we should welcome his offer and consider it with deliberation.